

Federal health plans. Passed unanimously in the Senate, passed twice in the House, we must not tolerate Soviet-style reversals of noncontroversial provisions.

I am outraged at a substitute that would allow only the diaphragm to be required in plans. Women need options. Some do not work. Some make us sick. There is no more sensitive issue for women than contraception. The bipartisan Women's Caucus supports the Lowey provision, and so do the majority of the House, the majority of the Senate and the majority of the American people.

ON TAX CUTS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, Americans pay on the average about 40 percent of their total household income in taxes. In 1996, recognizing this, the Republican leadership pushed for a middle class tax cut, despite the President's and most of the Democrats' objections that people who want to pay less taxes are just selfish.

Well, we are back at it again, another middle class tax cut. It has already passed the House. Marriage tax relief, ending the marriage tax penalty, relief for farmers and tax relief for the death tax penalty.

And what are the Democrats and the President saying? They are saying this is going to adversely affect Social Security. Well, what does the Director of the Congressional Budget Office say? That the tax plan has no effect on Social Security. This is a Democrat chart so the word "effect" is misspelled. But then, again, we knew Democrats would be reading this and we wanted to share the information with them so we had to put it in their language.

But the fact is, the point is right. The tax cut does not affect Social Security. Just how much is this? In the total budget scheme, Mr. Speaker, of \$9.6 trillion, it is barely a slither of a slither of \$80 billion in middle class tax relief over a 5-year period of time.

TAX RELIEF

(Mr. BLUNT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, people in America understand that they need tax relief. They understand that it is only fair, as we begin to balance the budget, that they get to keep part of the money they are sending to Washington. We see these two charts here that clearly point out that the amount of tax relief has no impact on Social Security.

They cannot imagine why we would possibly let the marriage penalty stay in the tax code one year longer, let alone forever. They cannot imagine

why we would not do everything necessary to go ahead and make health insurance automatically deductible for small business people, once we have decided that needs to be done, rather than to wait 6 or 7 years in the future.

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They cannot imagine why, out of \$1.6 trillion in surplus, that \$80 billion of that cannot go to tax relief and go to tax relief right now.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT

(Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in my district in Western Pennsylvania people are concerned with real pocketbook issues, like having the money to send their kids to college. The Taxpayer Protection Act, which we passed last week, provides much needed tax relief for working families and middle class taxpayers by building on our previous accomplishments.

Last year, this Republican Congress provided tax exempt status to qualified state prepaid tuition account programs. These programs will allow families to buy college credits at today's prices and bank them for the future, avoiding tuition inflation and making college costs more manageable for many families on tight budgets.

The Republican tax bill goes one step further than last year's bill by leveling the playing field and awarding the same preferential tax treatment to private prepaid programs.

Mr. Speaker, the Taxpayer Relief Act helps students achieve their dream of a college education and, through it, the American dream. This is good legislation that lifts some of the tax burden on the middle class and gives them the opportunity to save for their children's college education.

THERE IS NO SURPLUS

(Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LINDA SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a reality check. The President claims the government has a surplus. All Americans need to know that this just is not true. There is no surplus.

The President was going to borrow \$100 billion from Social Security to pay for his proposed current level of spending, but our good economy means now he will only borrow \$35 billion. Now, the \$65 billion difference that the Republicans said must be left in the Social Security Trust Fund is what the President now claims is a surplus. It is not a surplus. It is payroll taxes that the government collects to pay for Social Security checks each month.

We need to save Social Security, not spend it. That is why I voted against

the tax plan, not an easy vote, because it borrows still from Social Security. Believe me, I do support tax cuts, but we need to do it without compromising Social Security.

Now, we may have a true surplus by next year. Then we can make sure that Social Security will be there when people need it. Then we can have tax cuts, too. That is my goal, Mr. Speaker.

CENSUS SAMPLING

(Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, from day 1, this administration has conducted affairs of state more like King George than George Washington. Its ethic has been summed up in the book title by Clinton hit-man James Carvel: "We're Right and You're Wrong."

Now, in the latest census sampling wrinkle, the Clinton people show they are willing to ignore Federal Court rulings in pursuit of their agenda. Two separate decisions have declared it illegal to sample the population for the purposes of congressional reapportionment. Yet administration officials continue to forge ahead anyway with plans to sample in the next census, spending millions on a discredited idea at a time when preparations for the 2000 Census are at a very critical stage.

It is almost as if the Clinton Commerce Department wants the next census to fail so that the political pressure for their sampling agenda will be even greater in 2010.

Mr. Speaker, it is past time for the President to begin enforcing the laws, even those he does not like.

PRESIDENT SHOULD NOT GO TO WAR WITHOUT CONSENT OF CONGRESS

(Mr. CAMPBELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Speaker, a letter is presently being circulated that has been authored by my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS), and myself. I would ask for my colleagues' attention to it, please, if they could sign it.

The letter is addressed to the President of the United States and it vindicates the most important obligation that we have, and that is in the area of warmaking. The Constitution says that we do not go to war unless the representatives of the people, in this House and in the other body, vote for it. It does not give the President the right to go to war on his own.

My colleagues, we are about to go to war. We are about to go to war in Kosovo. If it is the right thing, so be it. The President should make the case it is the right thing here in the people's House. Have us approve it or not. But